

Confidential until released for publication as under :-

Morning Papers .. 7th March, 1938.
Evening Papers .. 7th March, 1938.

RETAIL PRICES - DECEMBER QUARTER 1937.

Food and Rent (All Houses) "A" Series (Table 1.).-

These indexes (with base 1,000 in 1911 for the six State capitals) for the towns of Queensland in the fourth quarter of 1937 were as follows :- Brisbane 1,439, Toowoomba 1,372, Rockhampton 1,353, Townsville 1,497, Bundaberg 1,317, Charters Towers 1,217, and Warwick 1,244.

From September to December quarter the Brisbane index rose 0.98 per cent, and increases in other towns were Toowoomba 1.18 per cent, Rockhampton 1.42 per cent, Townsville 1.29 per cent, Bundaberg 0.15 per cent and Charters Towers 0.83 per cent. In Warwick there was a decrease of 0.40 per cent.

Compared with December 1936 the increase in Brisbane was 0.56 per cent. The lowest point reached by the "All Houses" index in the depression years was 1,199 in March quarter 1933, the subsequent increase to December quarter 1937 being 20.02 per cent. Since March quarter 1931 the increase has been 7.15 per cent.

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) "B" Series (Table 2.).

Index numbers for the fourth quarter of 1937 (with base 1,000 in 1923-1927 for the six State capitals) were Brisbane 829, Toowoomba 802, Rockhampton 814, Townsville 882, Bundaberg 753, Charters Towers 725, and Warwick 708.

From September to December there were increases in all towns except Toowoomba where the index remained the same.

The Brisbane index was 1.84 per cent above the December quarter 1936 index, and 9.08 per cent above the level of March quarter 1931.

"All Items" - "C" Series (Table 3.).-

Index numbers for the fourth quarter 1937 (with base 1,000 in 1923-1927 for the six State capitals) were Brisbane 844, Toowoomba 839, Rockhampton 846, Townsville 890, Bundaberg 813, Charters Towers 822, and Warwick 783.

Besides food, groceries, and rent (of 4 and 5 roomed houses), this index includes clothing, footwear, drapery, household utensils, fuel, light, and other miscellaneous items of household expenditure. Percentage increases in the index numbers for all towns between September and December 1937 were as follows :- Brisbane 1.08, Toowoomba 0.24, Rockhampton 0.95, Townsville 1.14, Bundaberg 0.49, Charters Towers 0.74, and Warwick 1.16. In Brisbane food and grocery costs increased 1.71 per cent, rent 0.49 per cent, clothing and footwear 1.76 per cent, and fuel, light, and other miscellaneous expenditure 0.11 per cent.

Compared with December 1936, there has been an increase of 1.93 per cent in the Brisbane "All Items" index. The rises in the four sections were food and groceries 1.46 per cent, rent 2.22 per cent, clothing 4.38 per cent, and other miscellaneous expenditure 0.32 per cent.

In December quarter 1937, the Brisbane index was 3.69 per cent above that for March quarter 1931, but it was 7.96 per cent below the level for the year 1928. The lowest point reached by this index in the depression years was 747 in March quarter 1933, the increase to December 1937 being 13.25 per cent.

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.-

In the following statement the present State Basic wage of £3.18. 0 in Brisbane is compared in the first column with the amounts required to purchase the same amount of commodities in the other capitals. The second column shows the actual State Basic wages and the third the actual Commonwealth Basic wages in the capitals. All comparisons are on the basis of December quarter 1937 index numbers.

Capital		Equivalent of £3:18: 0. in Brisbane a.	State Basic Wage b.	Common- wealth Basic Wage c.
		£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
Brisbane	..	3 18 0	3 18 0	3 14 0
Sydney	..	4 3 1	3 18 0	3 19 0
Melbourne	..	4 1 5	d	3 17 0
Adelaide	..	4 0 6	3 14 0	3 15 0
Perth	..	4 0 2	3 14 11	3 14 0
Hobart	..	4 2 1	d	3 16 0

- a. Based on "All Items" index "C" Series.
- b. Current Rates
- c. Corresponding to December quarter "court" index numbers with the addition of the special loadings.
- d. No State wage actually declared but follows Commonwealth rates to a large extent.

The basic wages are supposed to provide for a family of a standard size which varies according to different Courts. In Commonwealth awards the family is man, wife and 2 children; in Queensland and South Australian awards, man, wife and 3 children; in Western Australia, man, wife and 2 children; and in New South Wales, man, wife and 1 child, but child endowment of 5/- a week for each additional child is provided in that State.

S. E. Solomon.

for GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,

BRISBANE.

3rd March, 1938.

RETAIL PRICES INDEXES.

Table No. 1. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (ALL HOUSES) - "A" SERIES.
(Base = 1,000 in 1911 in Six State Capitals).

CITY	Year 1928	Q U A R T E R S.						
		March 1931	Decr. 1933	Decr. 1934	Decr. 1935	Decr. 1936	Sept. 1937	Decr. 1937
Brisbane	1,595	1,343	1,228	1,260	1,333	1,431	1,425	1,439
Toowoomba	1,458	1,324	1,202	1,250	1,306	1,364	1,356	1,372
Rockhampton	1,520	1,392	1,195	1,235	1,324	1,340	1,334	1,353
Townsville	1,781	1,511	1,363	1,387	1,461	1,500	1,478	1,497
Bundaberg	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	1,292	1,315	1,317
Weighted Average - Five Towns (a)	1,571	1,345	1,219	1,255	1,328	1,412	1,414	1,428
Charters Towers	1,508	1,318	1,130	1,155	1,235	1,222	1,207	1,217
Warwick	1,435	1,311	1,187	1,228	1,289	1,274	1,249	1,244

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 and 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" Series.
(Base 1,000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY	Year 1928	Q U A R T E R S.						
		March 1931	Decr. 1933	Decr. 1934	Decr. 1935	Decr. 1936	Sept. 1937	Decr. 1937
Brisbane	901	760	696	718	761	814	819	829
Toowoomba	833	739	689	708	755	804	802	802
Rockhampton	858	791	680	706	756	759	804	814
Townsville	1,047	904	794	816	856	883	872	882
Bundaberg	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	753	751	753
Weighted Average - Five Towns (a)	892	764	694	716	760	806	818	827
Charters Towers	942	824	692	707	757	729	721	725
Warwick	841	759	685	699	741	728	703	708

Table No. 3. THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.
(Base = 1,000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY	Year 1928	Q U A R T E R S.						
		March 1931	Decr. 1933	Decr. 1934	Decr. 1935	Decr. 1936	Sept. 1937	Decr. 1937
Brisbane	917	814	753	763	784	828	835	844
Toowoomba	906	834	780	780	784	831	837	839
Rockhampton	903	824	750	755	795	808	838	846
Townsville	1,023	928	844	848	857	884	880	890
Bundaberg	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	806	809	813
Weighted Average - Five Towns (a)	915	817	755	763	785	825	838	846
Charters Towers	925	839	757	757	809	815	816	822
Warwick	914	828	756	762	777	795	774	783

- (a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
- (b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September Quarter 1936.